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Review

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THE PLANNING OF FREE SOCIETIES. By Ferdynand Zweig, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Cracow. 1943. (London: Secker & Warburg.  $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}''$ . 264 pp. 12s. 6d.)

THE first two parts of this study are devoted to the explanation of the idea of planning, and of the driving forces of planned economy. Then follows a description of the objectives, machinery and working of planned economy, and finally an exposition of the vast implications of planning in non-economic spheres. The text contains some revealing illustrations.

This book is an interesting attempt to present a logically complete philosophy of planning. The author outlines both advantages and disadvantages of planning, and indicates some of the inherent problems that must be faced by "planners." He is more concerned with trends and implications than with solutions to the problems he raises.

Professor Zweig speaks of "planned" and "unplanned" societies, "authoritative" and "market" prices. While such dual classification facilitates the discovery of implications, it sometimes does interfere with the analysis of the more subtle and realistic ground that lies between the extremes; e.g., in his discussion of planning and pricing, the author neglects to point out the role of market forces in "authoritative" price fixing. In short, this "take it or leave it" attitude to planning, by definition, eliminates some of the more pressing problems of the real world for the sake of the hypothetical.

Despite its weaknesses (some of which are no doubt due to lack of space) the book is a both challenging and useful contribution to planning literature. Its merit consists in its presentation of the theory of planning as a whole. In its parts there is much with which many economists will disagree.

GORDON TAYLOR

WHY NOT PROSPERITY. By A. J. Evans. 1943. (Harmondsworth, Middlesex: New York: Penguin Books. Penguin Special, S.136.  $7'' \times 4\frac{1}{4}''$ . 128 pp. 9d.)

A straightforward statement of the case for a democratic socialist system for Great Britain. The author (Winchester and Oxford, former master at Eton and business man) deals patiently, if at times a little naïvely, with most of the usual objections to socialism, and is not afraid to make concrete proposals for the treatment of a wide variety of social, economic and political problems.

H. W. ARNDT

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY CONTROL AGREEMENTS. 1943. (Montreal: International Labour Office.  $10'' \times 6\frac{3}{4}''$ . 221 pp. 8s. \$2.00.)

THIS book contains a collection of the texts of the existing intergovernmental commodity control agreements, and of extracts from the principal international pronouncements on commodity control policy. The appendix includes sections describing, by means of quotations from official sources, some of the war-time commodity control agencies and illustrative war-time commodity purchase and reserve stock agreements.

In a sixty-page introduction the author outlines briefly some of the more important theoretical and practical problems that arise in connection with existing agreements. He confines himself to requirements that are basic to control schemes for all types of internationally controlled commodities. From these basic requirements he derives a set of guiding principles, and in the light of these discusses the development of institutional arrangements and legal and financial procedure.

GORDON TAYLOR